

Weaving Place Mats

Description:

Children will learn to weave paper strips in a pattern as they create a functional work of art.

Materials:

construction paper in different colors, Weaving activity sheet (or a sheet of paper), safety scissors, glue

Optional: markers, crayons

Procedure:

Help your child cut along the dotted lines on the Weaving activity sheet. Fold the paper in half lengthwise and cut slits across it, leaving 1/2 inch uncut on either side. Next, have your child cut a sheet of construction paper into strips 1/2 inch wide. (Assist him if necessary.) Each strip of paper is then woven through the activity sheet—over-under-over-under. The strip next to it is woven in the opposite manner—under-over-under-over. You may need to assist younger children with the weaving. When the paper is filled with strips, it should resemble a checkerboard. After adjusting the paper, your child may want to glue the end of each strip to the paper to keep it in place. When the glue is dry, have him decorate the construction paper with markers or crayons. Lamine the final masterpiece and use it as a place mat.

Extension:

Encourage your child to weave with wiggly, squiggly, wavy strips of paper instead of straight strips.

Make several place mats and connect them to form a mural. The place mats themselves can form a pattern when they are attached to each other. This project works well with a group of children.

Just for Kids:

Have you ever looked closely at your clothing? Try it, you may be able to see how the threads weave in and out. Other woven items include rugs, shirts, baskets, flags, socks, and pants. Today you are going to weave a place mat with a checkerboard pattern. How many other patterns can you think of?

Standards: 2 and 5

Concepts: Pattern

Level: K-3

